CHINESE ECONOMICS SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

The 36th CESA Annual Conference

China’s Economic and Business Transformation in a Changing Global Context

New growth drivers, global reconfiguration, and emerging business realities

Monday 23 – Tuesday 24 November 2026 · The University of Sydney Business School (CBD Campus), Level 17, 133 Castlereagh Street, Sydney
Hosted by the Emerging Market Research Group (The University of Sydney Business School)
and The China Studies Centre, The University of Sydney



The University of Sydney



Sydney Harbour

DRAFT — v0.1 · Speakers, papers and rooms to be confirmed

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE HOSTS

Chinese Economics Society Australia (CESA)

HOST SOCIETY

https://www.ces-aus.org/

The Chinese Economics Society Australia (CESA) is a non-profit and non-partisan organization, which aims at promoting research and exchange activities related to the Chinese economy. Its objectives are to:

- Encourage and stimulate constructive inquiries, exchange and discussion on China's growth and development;
- Promote and disseminate research work related to China's economy and business development; and
- Provide a venue for post-graduate students to present and discuss their work.

CESA strives to become a leading research network of the Chinese economy in the Asia-Pacific region, and maintains close relationships with other professional associations with similar objectives.

The Society was initiated as the Association for Chinese Economic Studies, Australia (ACESA) in 1987 at the Australian National University in Canberra. CESA currently has more than 500 members, and more than 200 have participated in CESA conferences in the past two years.

The China Studies Centre

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

https://www.sydney.edu.au/research/our-research/centres/china-studies-centre.html

The China Studies Centre at The University of Sydney is a leading interdisciplinary research hub dedicated to advancing understanding of China — its society, economy, politics, culture, and engagement with the world.

Located within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the Centre provides a platform for interdisciplinary research collaboration across the University, fostering multidisciplinary research on and with China, and building research partnerships with institutions in Australia, China, and the wider Asia-Pacific.

Emerging Market Research Group

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY BUSINESS SCHOOL

https://www.sydney.edu.au/business/our-research/research-groups/emerging-markets-research-group.html

Emerging markets, through inward and outward foreign direct investment, have become a key research agenda as the world's economic focus shifts from developed nations to emerging markets such as China, India, and Brazil.

The Emerging Markets Research Group is investigating the strategies of companies in emerging markets as well as those of western multinationals expanding into emerging economies. It explores the unique institutional characteristics of emerging markets, the inherent diversity of institutions, and the consequent challenges and opportunities for Western multinationals.

EMRG aims to become a point of contact for Australian businesses already doing business or interested in entering emerging markets, as well as for companies in emerging markets that have an interest in expanding into Australia.

Journal of International Management — Special Issue

CHINA AND THE RECONFIGURATION OF INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT

A Special Issue of the Journal of International Management (JIM) invites research that uses China-related transformations to revisit, refine and extend international management theory. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- AI, digital platforms and intelligent technologies;
- internationalisation of Chinese firms and the changing strategies of foreign MNEs in China;
- state–market relations, industrial policy and nonmarket strategy;
- geopolitical and technological fragmentation;
- global value chains, location and network reconfiguration;
- cross-border innovation, data governance and technological standards; and
- legitimacy, institutions and international management theory.

Guest editors of the Special Issue will participate in the conference, and a dedicated **Paper Development Workshop (PDW)** will provide authors with an opportunity to discuss and develop their papers and receive developmental feedback. The JIM Special Issue itself has a manuscript submission deadline of **31 July 2027**, providing participants with time after the conference to further develop their work.

Venue

CBD CAMPUS, THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY BUSINESS SCHOOL



Our CBD Campus is a convenient, central-Sydney location. The Campus has been purpose-designed by award-winning design studio Geyer to facilitate transformative management education.

Sydney CBD Campus
Level 17, 133 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Local Organising Committee

Dr Wei Li (Co-chair), The University of Sydney
Professor Vikas Kumar (Co-chair), The University of Sydney
Professor Roc Shi (Co-chair), University of Technology Sydney

Keynote Speakers



Jiahua Pan

Professor and Executive Director, Centre for Global Climate Strategies, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou)

Vice Chair of China’s National Expert Panel on Climate Change; Lead Author of IPCC Working Group III (AR6, 2021); member of the UN Secretary-General’s Independent Group of Scientists for the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report. As an IPCC lead author he shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, and his honors include the Sun Yefang Prize in Economic Science. His research covers sustainable development economics, energy and climate policy, and ecological economics, with 16 monographs and more than 300 academic papers.

https://sdgs.un.org/panelists/mr-jiahua-pan-49476



Kaiji Chen

Emory University

Kaiji Chen is Professor of Economics at Emory University and a Fellow of the Asian Bureau of Financial and Economic Research. His research fields are macroeconomics and financial economics, with a recent focus on China's macroeconomy, including housing bubbles, shadow banking, monetary policy, and trends and cycles in China's macroeconomy. He has published in leading journals including the American Economic Review, Journal of Finance, NBER Macroeconomics Annual, and Journal of Monetary Economics, and was awarded the 3rd Sun Yefang Financial Innovation Award in 2018.



Vikas Kumar

Professor of International Business & Discipline Lead, The University of Sydney Business School; Co-chair, Local Organising Committee; Editor-in-Chief, Journal of International Management

His research examines how firms build, transfer and renew capabilities, with a focus on international business and emerging markets. He co-chairs the conference Local Organising Committee and leads the JIM Special Issue on China and the Reconfiguration of International Management.

https://profiles.sydney.edu.au/vikas.kumar

Program Overview

Two-day format at the USYD Business School CBD Campus. Session blocks run in parallel; full papers and rooms follow in the detailed program.

DAY 1 — MONDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2026

Level 17, 133 Castlereagh Street, Sydney

8:00 – 8:45	Registration & Welcome
8:45 – 9:15	Opening & Welcome Remarks — Dr Wei Li & A/Prof Yixiao Zhou
9:15 – 10:15	**Keynote Address I** — Prof Jiahua Pan
10:15 – 10:40	Morning Tea
10:40 – 12:10	Parallel Session Block A (incl. In Memoriam: Chunlai Chen)
12:10 – 1:20	Lunch
1:20 – 2:50	Parallel Session Block B
3:00 – 4:00	**Keynote Address II** — Prof Kaiji Chen
4:00 – 4:45	Industry Panel 1 — The Energy Transition
4:45 – 5:30	Industry Panel 2 — AI in Business
6:30 – 9:00	Conference Dinner (ticketed separately)

DAY 2 — TUESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2026

Level 17, 133 Castlereagh Street, Sydney

8:30 – 9:00	Morning Tea/Coffee
9:00 – 10:30	Parallel Session Block D
10:30 – 11:00	Morning Tea
11:00 – 12:00	**Keynote Address III** — Prof Vikas Kumar
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch & CESA Annual General Meeting
1:00 – 1:15	Introduction to the China Information Economics Society
1:15 – 3:00	JIM Special Issue Workshop · Parallel Blocks E & C
3:00 – 5:00	Optional Activity — Tour of the University of Sydney Main Campus

DAY 1 — MONDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2026

LEVEL 17, 133 CASTLEREAGH STREET, SYDNEY (USYD BUSINESS SCHOOL CBD CAMPUS)

8:00 – 8:45 — **Registration & Welcome**
Foyer · Level 17, 133 Castlereagh Street, Sydney

8:45 – 9:15 — **Opening & Welcome Remarks**
Dr Wei Li (Co-chair, LOC, The University of Sydney) · Associate Professor Yixiao Zhou (CESA President, ANU)

9:15 – 10:15 ★ — **Keynote Address I**
Prof Jiahua Pan — Professor and Executive Director, Centre for Global Climate Strategies, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou)
Moderator: Prof Roc Xunpeng Shi (Co-chair, LOC, University of Technology Sydney)

10:15 – 10:40 — **Morning Tea**

10:40 – 12:10 — **Parallel Session Block A** (13 papers · ~20 min per paper incl. discussion)

A1. Trade, Technology Competition and Supply Chains

Room TBC

Xiaoqing Li (Beijing Wuzi University) — "The Effect of U.S. Export Controls on China's AI Product Exports" CESA2026-013

Zitong Zhang (Peking University) — "Technology Containment, Cooperation, and Self-Reliance: A Three-Country Game Analysis" CESA2026-018

Naixi Liu (presenter TBC) (China Foreign Affairs University; University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) — "Trade Shocks and the Restructuring of Firm Boundaries: Vertical Disintegration versus Horizontal Integration" CESA2026-047 (acceptance pending)

A2. Green Development, Sustainability and Energy Transition I

Room TBC

Libo Shi (Beijing Wuzi University) — "Economic Openness, Policy Mix, and Carbon Emission Reduction" CESA2026-006

Roc Xunpeng Shi (University of Technology Sydney) — "Spillover of Green Rules: Impact of Environmental Provisions in Trade Agreements on National Energy Upgrading" CESA2026-019

Shuyu Wu (Nanjing Agricultural University) — "Alleviating Electricity Constraints and the Spatial Restructuring of Agricultural Value Chains: Evidence from China's West-to-East Electricity Transmission Project" CESA2026-021

Xuan Liu (Northwest A&F University) — "Water for Cities, Salt in the Fields: How China's South-to-North Water Diversion Project Affects Agricultural Land Quality and Cropping Patterns" CESA2026-044

Muyi Yang (Ember) — "Addition is not destiny: Emerging evidence from China" (paper ID TBC)

Yi Jin (Macau University of Science and Technology; Beijing Normal University; Jiangsu Normal University) — “The State's Green Hand: Financing Low-Carbon Transition through Mergers and Acquisitions in China” CESA2026-046

A3. Regulation, Governance and Corporate China

Room TBC

Sajid Anwar (University of the Sunshine Coast) — “Superstars as Monitors: Network Centrality and Governance in China’s Film Industry” CESA2026-001

Yasir Shahab (Xijing University) — “The Price of a Toast: Social Norms, Fiduciary Duty, and M&A Premium Decisions in China” CESA2026-003

Xin Deng (Adelaide University) — “Corporate environmental performance and forced CEO turnovers in China” CESA2026-035

Peng Zhou (presenter TBC) (Hefei University of Technology) — “Regulatory Technology and Stock Price Crash Risk: Evidence from a Quasi-Natural Experiment” CESA2026-058

> ### Special Session — In Memoriam: Emeritus Professor Chunlai Chen
>
> Room TBC
>
> A tribute to Emeritus Professor Chunlai Chen and his contributions to research on the Chinese economy. Three presentations; each speaker has an extended slot for their tribute and discussion.
>
> **Moderator: Prof Dong Wang**
>
> **Prof Ligang Song** — The Australian National University · Presentation title TBC
>
> **Prof Yanrui Wu** — University of Western Australia · Presentation title TBC
>
> **Prof Sizhong Sun** — James Cook University · Presentation title TBC

12:10 – 1:20 — **Lunch**

1:20 – 2:50 — **Parallel Session Block B** (13 papers · ~20 min per paper incl. discussion)

B1. Innovation, Digital Transformation and Productivity

Room TBC

Sasan Bakhtiari (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University) — “Intangible Mix and Firm Productivity in China” CESA2026-007

Guangjie Ning (Shandong University) — “Study on the Impact of Artificial Intelligence Application at Establishment Level on Labor Process and Employment Quality” CESA2026-008

Wenping Zheng (University of International Business and Economics) — “Super-Deduction Expansion and the Organization of R&D: Evidence from Zhongguancun Firms” CESA2026-030

Xinpu Wang (presenter TBC) (Lanzhou University) — “When Does Knowledge Complexity Foster Economic Growth? Technological Relatedness and Innovation Policy in Chinese Cities” CESA2026-057

Marina Zhang (University of Technology Sydney) — “The Platform Orchestration of Place: How Intermediary Organizations Build Innovation Ecosystems in China’s Industrial Clusters” (paper ID TBC)

B2. Trade, Investment and Global Value Chains

Room TBC

Ming Zhang (Nanjing Agricultural University) — “When Does Trade Diversion Become Supply Creation? Temporary Agricultural Trade Restrictions, Investment Irreversibility, and Supply-Chain Ratchets” CESA2026-017

Yanrui Wu (University of Western Australia) — “Unequal Impacts of Digital Trade Barriers on Exports: The Role of Industry Digital Intensity” CESA2026-029

Qing-Ping Ma (University of Nottingham Ningbo China) — “Conditions for Comparative Advantage Theory and Their Implications for International Trade and Economic Growth” CESA2026-032

Ning Meng (Nanjing University; CESifo) — “Demand and Supply Linkages in Exporting Multiproduct Firms” CESA2026-055 (with Carsten Eckel and Lisandra Flach)

B3. Green Agriculture and Rural Sustainability Room TBC

Yu Sheng (Australian National University) — “They’re Back! Pests and Bt Cotton in China” CESA2026-005

Hepei Zhang (Gannan University of Science and Technology) — “Promoting the Adoption of Green Agricultural Technologies by Resource-Constrained Farmers: The Role of Agricultural Cooperative Services” CESA2026-038

Qi Yang (presenter TBC) (Nanjing Agricultural University; Nanjing Agricultural University; China Center for Food Security Research) — “Bridging the last mile: The role of rural grassroots expert in farmers’ adoption of standardized pest control technologies” CESA2026-051

Zhang Jing (Beijing Wuzi University) — “Low-Altitude Economy Policies and Corporate ESG Performance: Evidence from China” CESA2026-012

3:00 – 4:00 ★

Keynote Address II

Prof Kaiji Chen — Professor of Economics, Emory University

Moderator: Prof Vikas Kumar (Co-chair, LOC, The University of Sydney)

4:00 – 4:45

Industry Panel 1 — The Energy Transition: Policy, Renewables, EVs and Finance (45 min)

Moderator: Prof Roc Shi — University of Technology Sydney

- **Prof Qi Ye** — The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou) · Dean of Society Hub
- **Prof Liu Yu** — Peking University
- **Yao Lixia** — National University of Singapore, Energy Studies Institute

4:45 – 5:30

Industry Panel 2 — AI in Business: Enterprise Adoption, Innovation and the Cloud (45 min)

Moderator: Dr Wei Li — The University of Sydney

- **Prof Vikas Kumar** — Professor of International Business, The University of Sydney Business School; Editor-in-Chief, Journal of International Management
- **Prof Jinjun Xue** — Nagoya University · “AI-Powered Green Industrial Transition in China”
- **Marina Zhang** — University of Technology Sydney

6:30 – 9:00

Conference Dinner (Venue TBC)
Ticketed separately — AU$132 incl. GST (not included in registration)

DAY 2 — TUESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2026

LEVEL 17, 133 CASTLEREAGH STREET, SYDNEY (USYD BUSINESS SCHOOL CBD CAMPUS)

8:30 – 9:00 — **Morning Tea/Coffee**

9:00 – 10:30 — **Parallel Session Block D** (12 papers · ~20 min per paper incl. discussion)

D1. Low-Carbon Transition and Green Industry — Room TBC

Zhe Liu (Beijing Wuzi University) — “Does Smart Environmental Regulation Spur Green Breakthrough Innovation: Firm-Level Evidence from China” CESA2026-027

Mingda Yang (Southeast University) — “The impact of energy saving and emission reduction fiscal policy on corporate ESG performance: Evidence from China” CESA2026-034

Ling Ding (presenter TBC) (Hefei University of Technology; China Agricultural University; University of Science and Technology of China) — “Place-based Policy Mix and Green Innovation: Evidence from Pilots of "Low Carbon City" and "Broadband China"” CESA2026-054

Shane Zhang (Adelaide University) — “Bridging the Gap Between Green Finance and Sustainable Aviation Fuel: A Systematic Review” (paper ID TBC)

D2. Global Value Chains and Firm Strategy — Room TBC

Tony Fang (Memorial University of Newfoundland and IZA) — “Agricultural Trade and Geopolitics: A Comparative Analysis of China–U.S. and China–Canada Trade Relations” (paper ID TBC)

Pundarik Mukhopadhaya (Macquarie University) — “Product Quality, Export Scope, and Skill Demand in Developing Economies” CESA2026-010

Meichen Zhang (University of International Business and Economics) — “Artificial Intelligence and Global Value Chain Reorganization: Evidence from Emerging Asian Economies” CESA2026-020

Cheng Sibei — “Is Global Supply Chain Restructuring Intensifying ASEAN–China Trade Frictions? Evidence from US Nearshoring and Friendshoring” CESA2026-039

D3. Growth, Labour and Demographic Change — Room TBC

Yu Sheng (The Australian National University) — “Expanding Financial Access in Distorted Factor Markets: Productivity Effects of China’s Postal Savings Bank Reform” CESA2026-040

Yun Zhang (Renmin University of China) — “When Work and Motherhood Collide: Labor Market Attachment and Maternal Mental Health” CESA2026-033

Nobuhiro Okamoto (presenter TBC) (Daito Bunka University) — “China's Demographic Transition: A Re-evaluation” CESA2026-050

Ximeng 'Simon' Chen (University of Sydney) — “The Dialectics of Quality in China’s Development Discourse: A Conceptual Genealogy” CESA2026-014

10:30 – 11:00	**Morning Tea**
11:00 – 12:00 ★	**Keynote Address III** **Prof Vikas Kumar** — Professor of International Business, The University of Sydney Business School; Editor-in-Chief, Journal of International Management **Moderator: Dr Wei Li** (Co-chair, LOC, The University of Sydney)
12:00 – 1:00	**Lunch & CESA Annual General Meeting** (format TBC)
1:00 – 1:15	**Introduction to the China Information Economics Society** (中国信息经济学会) **Prof Wei Liu** — Professor, Harbin Institute of Technology; Deputy Secretary-General, China Information Economics Society
1:15 – 3:00	**Special Paper Development Workshop — Journal of International Management Special Issue** China and the Reconfiguration of International Management · Facilitated by the Special Issue guest editors (TBC) · Authors present and develop papers selected for the PDW and receive developmental feedback · Room TBC (runs in parallel with Block E) **Workshop papers** **Jie Bai** (presenter TBC) (Lingnan University; East China Normal University) — "Industrial Intelligence and Its Implications for Energy Consumption and Environment" CESA2026-045 (workshop acceptance TBC) **Pei Yu** (presenter TBC) (Wuhan University of Technology; VOYAH Automotive Technology Co., Ltd.) — "Digital Cross-Border M&As as Springboards for Supply Chain Resilience: Evidence from Chinese EMNEs" CESA2026-048 (conference acceptance pending; workshop acceptance TBC) **Yilan Chen** (presenter TBC) (Yunnan University of Finance and Economics; Wuhan University of Technology) — "The determinants of cross-border supply chain geographic allocation of EMNEs: From the perspective of supranational institutional embeddedness and subsidiary footprint" CESA2026-052 (workshop acceptance TBC)
1:15 – 3:00	**Parallel Session Block E** (7 papers · ~20 min per paper incl. discussion) **E1. China–Australia and Asia-Pacific Economic Relations** Room TBC **Yixiao Zhou** (Australian National University) — "Imports and Firm Productivity: Australian Firm-Level Evidence" CESA2026-022 **Jing Cui** (Beijing Normal University) — "FDI as a Catalyst for Business Environment Transformation: Evidence from 44 African Countries" CESA2026-036 **Sizhong Sun** (James Cook University) — "Semiparametric Estimation of a Heterogenous Truncation Model" CESA2026-043

Xiaoyong Qiao (presenter TBC) (Beijing University of Technology) — “Spillover Effects of Federal Reserve Monetary Policy on Real Production Activity in Industrial Sectors: A Global Production Network Perspective” CESA2026-049

E2. Trade Policy and Cross-Border Investment Room TBC

Yao Liu (Dongbei University of Finance and Economics) — “Corporate ESG Performance and Transnational Supply Chain Stability” CESA2026-002

Jianxin Wang (Shanghai University of International Business and Economics) — “Tariff Preferences under RTAs and Knowledge Spillovers: Empirical Evidence from the Sino-Swiss Free Trade Agreement” CESA2026-042

Lihua Guo (presenter TBC) (Minzu University of China; Adelaide University) — “Can AI Industrial Policy Mitigate Firms’ Supply Chain Risk? Evidence from China’s National AI Pilot Zones” CESA2026-056

1:15 – 3:00

Parallel Session Block C (15 papers · ~20 min per paper incl. discussion · carried over from Day 1 afternoon, runs alongside Block E and the PDW)

C1. Artificial Intelligence and the Digital Economy Room TBC

Yingying Qiao (Central University of Finance and Economics) — “Urban Agglomeration Planning, Market Efficiency, and Collaborative Innovation” CESA2026-015

Wenji Wang (Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications) — “When the Market Heats Up, Does AI Washing Surge? Institutional Investor AI Attention and Corporate AI Washing” CESA2026-016

Xian Chen (University of Western Australia) — “The Time Profile of Innovation: TFP Dynamics and Risk Premia” CESA2026-026

Yiqiang Feng (Central University of Finance and Economics) — “Artificial Intelligence and High-Quality Full Employment among Youth: Evidence from a Quasi-Natural Experiment Based on China’s New-Generation AI Innovation and Development Pilot Zones” CESA2026-028

Peng Wang (Chinese Academy of Sciences) — “AI Sustainability: Connecting Dots to Line” (paper ID TBC)

Rentao Rao (affiliation TBC) — “Industrial Robots and Firm Markups: Evidence from China’s Manufacturing Sector” (paper ID TBC)

C2. Institutions, Politics and Chinese Business Room TBC

Chen Zhu (Hefei University of Technology / University of Western Australia) — “Filial Piety and the Missing Entrepreneurship” CESA2026-009

Cindy Li (Independent researcher) — “Confucian Political Economy under Xi Jinping: Common Prosperity, State Stewardship and Political Legitimation” CESA2026-024

Juyin Zhu (Nanjing Agricultural University) — “Local Protection in China’s Rice Seed Market” CESA2026-025

Songtao Dong (presenter TBC) (Hefei University of Technology; China Agricultural University; University of Science and Technology of China) — “When GenAI Governance Becomes a Market Signal: Supplier Stock Reactions to China's Deep Synthesis Algorithm Filings” CESA2026-053

C3. Macroeconomic and Financial Adjustment Room TBC

Yu Sheng (Australian National University) — “Financial Deregulation, Capital Drainage, and Agricultural Labor Productivity: Evidence from County-level Analysis in Rural China” CESA2026-004

Wanting Wu (Beijing Wuzi University) — “Bank–Firm Expectation Disagreement and Corporate Maturity Mismatch: Evidence from China” CESA2026-023

Wenping Zheng (University of International Business and Economics) — “Sovereign Debt Reallocation and the Fiscal–Monetary Nexus: Evidence from China’s Local Government” CESA2026-031

Jing Cui (Beijing Normal University) — “Retirement Reform and Labour Market Resilience in an Ageing Society: A Comparative Institutional Perspective from China and Canada” CESA2026-037

Yu Liu (Peking University) — “Interpreting and Validating the Mechanisms Underlying Computable General Equilibrium Model Results” (paper ID TBC)

3:00 – 5:00

Optional Activity — Tour of the University of Sydney Main Campus

Guided walk through the Camperdown campus, including the Quadrangle and Great Hall · Optional, at no additional cost · Meeting point TBC

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

Standard: **AU$385** incl. GST

Student: **AU$275** incl. GST

Early bird discount: **AU$50** (until 31 August 2026)

Registration closes: **10 November 2026**

Conference dinner: AU$132 incl. GST, charged separately

CONTACTS & COMMITTEE

Enquiries & submissions: **cesa2026@163.com**

Special issues: Journal of Chinese Economic and Foreign Trade Studies · Asian-Pacific Economic Literature · Journal of International Management (China and the Reconfiguration of International Management; PDW at the conference, submission deadline 31 July 2027)